

OLC 76-2277

25 June 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Meeting with Former Representative Les Arends

1. Mr. Les Arends, a former Congressman, visited with the Director today to talk over with him some areas of mutual interest and concern. I was asked to sit in on the meeting. They were primarily concerned with the future of intelligence in this country and more particularly with the subject of congressional oversight of foreign intelligence agencies.

2. The Director conveyed to Mr. Arends his concern about the proliferation of information among so many (now seven) committees of Congress, especially information which must be reported to the "appropriate committees of Congress" under Section 662 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended. The Director said he has always favored the establishment of a joint committee on intelligence and this is consistent with the position taken by the Administration and former Director William Colby. We discussed the prospect of any action in the House of Representatives on the subject of intelligence oversight prior to the adjournment of the 94th Congress and we all agreed that in view of the time pressures, it was most unlikely that the House would take any real action on this subject this year. We also touched on the fact that the efforts of the House with respect to investigations of intelligence had been so disastrous that we thought most Representatives are unwilling to even have this subject brought up at this time. We all agreed and hoped, however, that in the next Congress there will be an inclination to establish a Select Committee similar to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence or to propose a joint committee. We recognize that our desire for exclusivity of jurisdiction runs completely counter to the assertion of jurisdiction by various committees such as International Relations, Armed Services and Judiciary Committees who are unwilling to give up their existing jurisdiction.

3. Mr. Arends said he was most willing to be helpful in any way he could in furthering the Director's objective (which he shared). I told him that we had prepared a number of background papers on the subjects of oversight legislation and related topics and, while somewhat outdated at this time, he might find them useful. I told him I would send him copies for his background and information. It was a most cordial session and as he left, Mr. Arends told me to feel free to call on him whenever I felt he could be of assistance.



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